

What is claimed is:

1. Isolated nucleic acid comprising DNA encoding DNA19355 polypeptide comprising amino acid residues X to 177 of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein X is any one of amino acid residues 48 to 57 of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

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2. The nucleic acid of claim 1 comprising DNA encoding DNA19355 polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 177 of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

3. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 or claim 2.

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4. The vector of claim 3 operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

5. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 3.

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6. The host cell of claim 5 wherein said cell is a CHO cell.

7. The host cell of claim 5 wherein said cell is an *E. coli*.

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8. The host cell of claim 5 wherein said cell is a yeast cell.

9. A process for producing DNA19355 polypeptides comprising culturing the host cell of claim 5 under conditions suitable for expression of DNA19355 and recovering DNA19355 from the cell culture.

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10. Isolated DNA19355 polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 177 of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

11. Isolated DNA19355 polypeptide having at least about 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence DNA19355 polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 177 of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

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12. The DNA19355 polypeptide of claim 11 having at least about 90% amino acid sequence identity.

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[illegible]

14. The DNA19355 polypeptide of claim 11 wherein said polypeptide binds to human GITR.

15. Isolated DNA19355 polypeptide comprising:

(a) amino acid residues X to 177 of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein X is any one of amino acid residues 48 to 57 of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1); or

(b) a fragment of (a), wherein said fragment is biologically active.

16. Isolated DNA19355 polypeptide encoded by the cDNA insert of the vector deposited as ATCC 209466.

17. A chimeric molecule comprising DNA19355 polypeptide fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

18. The chimeric molecule of claim 17 wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is an epitope tag sequence.

19. The chimeric molecule of claim 17 wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is a Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

20. The chimeric molecule of claim 17 wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is a leucine zipper.

21. A chimeric molecule comprising DNA19355 polypeptide fused to a nonproteinaceous polymer.

22. An antibody which specifically binds to DNA19355 polypeptide.

23. The antibody of claim 22 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

24. A method of inducing apoptosis in mammalian cancer cells comprising exposing mammalian cancer cells to an effective amount of DNA19355 polypeptide.

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25. A method of stimulating a proinflammatory response in mammalian cells, comprising exposing said mammalian cells to an effective amount of DNA19355 polypeptide.

5      26.    The method of claim 25 wherein said mammalian cells are T cells.